



Fun at the Village Fair '17



FESTIVE STROLL of Historic Homes in Sparta to Benefit Two Charities This Year

On November 17 & 18 from 10am to 4pm, Holbrook Cottage, a lifestyle shop, will bring its popular Festive Stroll to the neighborhood of Sparta in Ossining to benefit The Ossining Children's Center and Neighbors Link. Three historic homes will be decorated by Holbrook Cottage and Hudson Landscapes in one of three holiday themes: Thanksgiving, Hannukah, and Christmas. All ticket sales and a portion of sales at Holbrook Cottage on Nov. 17 & 18 will benefit Ossining Children's Center and Neighbors Link.

The tours begin at The Jug Tavern, after which participants are invited to a complimentary champagne reception at Holbrook Cottage (1253 Pleasantville Rd, Briarcliff Manor). On the same days as the tour, Tastefully Yours (1250 Pleasantville Rd) will offer a High Tea at 1pm (additional charge).

Tickets: \$50 for Festive Stroll; \$125 for Festive Stroll and High Tea (purchase at www.holbrookcottage.com/festive-stroll-of-historic-homes). For more information call Holbrook Cottage at 914-944-0734.

Save the Date

for our annual **Holiday Gathering** on **Sunday December 10, 2017 (5:00pm to 8:00pm)**. Watch for your invitation in the mail.



The Jug Tavern of Sparta, Inc.

The Jug Tavern of Sparta, Inc. is a nonprofit organization formed in 1986 to preserve The Jug Tavern for future generations. Built as a farmhouse around 1760, "The Jug" stands at the gateway to Sparta, Ossining's oldest neighborhood. After an 1884 fire, it was rebuilt on the original foundation. In 1976 the Village of Ossining and the Ossining Restoration Committee purchased the building, saving it from demolition. The same year it was placed on the National Register. Today the Jug Tavern is a focus of community engagement and the centerpiece of the Sparta Historic District.



TOP, LEFT: North side of Liberty St. before Vanderlip project. 7 Liberty is on the left, the center and right buildings were removed and 9 Liberty is in its place. TOP RIGHT: Liberty St. looking east toward Spring St. after Vanderlip restorations. BOTTOM LEFT: 7 Liberty St. today. BOTTOM RIGHT: 9 Liberty St. today. INSET, BELOW: Davis family members on front porch of 7 Liberty St.

PROPERTY PROFILES: *7 Liberty St. & 9 Liberty St.*

The adjacent properties at 7 and 9 Liberty Street share a driveway, a garage and a link to a vital part of Sparta's history. Built in the 19th century, these two structures were selected for the Vanderlip restoration project in the 1920s. Frank A. Vanderlip, president of National City Bank, and his wife Narcisa Cox Vanderlip lived at Beechwood in nearby Scarborough. After Frank's retirement from the bank in 1919 the Vanderlips purchased many of the properties that comprise Sparta in an effort to rehabilitate what had become a crowded, run-down, and crime-ridden neighborhood. Some dilapidated structures were torn down, while others were restored or renovated. The remaining properties were rented and eventually returned to private ownership, including 7 and 9 Liberty Street.

7 LIBERTY STREET

Built before 1820 on the street's north side, the L-shaped footprint of 7 Liberty retains its shape. During the Vanderlip restoration, the porch and front door were moved from the side facing the street to instead face the river, tucked into the L for privacy, and a Palladian window was added on the east side. The first owner after the restoration was William J. Davis, an oil and gasoline dealer, who purchased the house in 1935 and lived there with his wife and three sons. Since then it has had four owners.

"It is wonderful to live in a community with its roots in the 18th century, and to be involved with neighbors who all strive to maintain and promote that history for future generations," says Florence Brennemann, the current owner, who



has lived in the house for over forty years. A longtime champion of Sparta history, she served as the first president on the Jug Tavern of Sparta (see p. 1) for twenty years and continues to serve on the organization's Board of Directors.

This charming home provides warmth and charm with two fireplaces, views of the Hudson River, and a cozy, private garden area. While most of the interior has not been changed, the kitchen and bathroom have been updated and a bathroom added. The house is undergoing further restoration of the exterior siding and shutters with period-appropriate materials to maintain the home as it was in the 1920s.

9 LIBERTY STREET

In 1855, a house was added on the south side of the street at number 6 Liberty, directly across from 7 Liberty. In 1920 the house at 6 Liberty was moved across the street to its new address at 9 Liberty, and turned 90 degrees to face the river. Before that could happen, however, several structures between 7 and 11 Liberty (the local grocery) were removed: a saloon, a dwelling, and a vacant dilapidated structure. The grocery became residential and the neighborhood transformation from commercial hamlet to residential enclave was in motion.

Parts of the demolished structures were incorporated into the garage at the back of 7 & 9 Liberty in the 1920s. Evidence of this can be seen in the painted ceiling boards, reports Holly von Bernuth, who has called 9 Liberty home for fifteen years (the fourth home she has owned in Ossining and Scarborough). A board member of the Jug Tavern of Sparta, Ms. von Bernuth tends year-round the Jug Tavern garden.

While the floorplan of the house remains the same, a kitchen renovation revealed that the first-floor ceilings may have been raised at some point. In addition the interior was stripped of its plaster walls, solid wood doors, and wooden trim over the years. Ms. von Bernuth has been gradually replacing these with better quality items. She hopes to replace the aluminum siding and to install insulation throughout. Other renovations included re-opening a covered window and several doorways, to create a wonderfully sun-filled home.